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To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, Dec. 15
Attachments: Daily News Digest 12152016.pdf

1 — Officials in Corpus Christi, Texas: Don't drink or use tap water, USA Today, 12/15/2016

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/12/15/officials-corpus-christi-texas-dont-drink-use-tap-water/95461416/>

Residents of Corpus Christi in Texas should avoid using tap water due to a possible contamination by an unknown chemical, officials said. The incident occurred late Wednesday and was caused by a recent back-flow incident in the area's industrial district, according to a city news release

2 — New Mexico finds no 'red flags' in nuclear dump inspection, AP, 12/14/2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/9bb874bb1d214aadbcbfd9a0e02276a5b/new-mexico-finds-no-red-flags-nuclear-dump-inspection>

New Mexico inspectors did not uncover any red flags in their recent review of the federal government's underground nuclear waste repository as the facility prepares to reopen after a radiation leak, regulators said Wednesday. The state Environment Department's team of inspectors focused on issues dating back to a 2014 fire involving one of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's mining trucks and the separate leak that contaminated much of the underground disposal area, forcing the dump's indefinite closure.

3 — St. Tammany Parish gets \$300,000 grant for Abita River watershed, Times Picayune, 12/9/2016

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/12/st-tammany-gets-300k-grant-for.html#incart_river_index

St. Tammany Parish government has received a \$300,000 grant to help improve water quality in the Abita River watershed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday (Dec. 12).

4 — Sandbranch, Texas: A Small Community Denied Water for Over 30 Years Fights Back, The Root, 12/14/2016

http://www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2016/12/sandbranch-texas-water-crisis/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=socialshare

Sandbranch, Texas, a small unincorporated community in Dallas County, has been fighting for over 30 years to have access to clean running water, but between the machinations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Dallas County officials, the community continues to go without this most basic and critical of human rights.

5 — (Video) A Message From the President to America's Federal Workforce, 12/13/2016

<http://thetimesbusiness.com/a-message-from-the-president-to-americas-federal-workforce/>

6 — DEQ plans public hearing on permit for landfill changes in Sorrento, Advocate, 12/14/2016

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton-rouge/news/article_4e95ce0a-c243-11e6-b63b-2f29cbf467b7.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share

After the urging of Ascension Parish Council members in late October, state environmental officials plan a public hearing 6 p.m. Thursday and will offer an extended public comment period over proposed changes to a previously planned expansion of BFI's Colonial Landfill. The big landfill off La. 70 south of Sorrento needs state

Department of Environmental Quality approval in order to change the layout of a previously approved expansion.

7 — Pregnant Women Warned to Avoid Brownsville, Tex., Because of Zika, NY Times, 12/14/2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/14/health/zika-pregnant-women-brownsville-texas.html?smid=tw-nytnational&smtyp=cur>

Federal health officials warned pregnant women on Wednesday to avoid visiting Brownsville, Tex., because of the threat of infection with the Zika virus. At least five cases of Zika transmitted by local mosquitoes have been reported in the last few weeks, and temperatures are still high enough for mosquitoes to thrive, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

8 — Groundbreaking held for New Orleans school amid remediation of former toxic dump, WDSU, 12/14/2016

<http://www.wdsu.com/article/groundbreaking-held-for-new-orleans-school-amid-remediation-of-former-toxic-dump-at-site/8496315>

A new school building will go up at the site of the former Booker T. Washington High School in Central City, which was partially torn down after Hurricane Katrina. But it's what was there long before the storm that has made the rebuild difficult from the start. School and city leaders touted the construction as a gateway to a brighter community during a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday.

9 Kirtland Jet Fuel Spill Update Fourth well under construction, Alibi, 12/15/2016

<http://alibi.com/news/52494/Kirtland-Jet-Fuel-Spill-Update.html>

You probably know some of the back story already: In 1992, technicians at Kirtland Air Force Base detected a fuel spill in its Bulk Fuels Facility—a spill that began more than 30 years ago with the installation of “modernized” fuel storage facilities in 1953. In the 1980s the Air Force allegedly dodged the Environmental Protection Agency’s requests to investigate this leak, and got away with doing effectively nothing about it until 1999, when a pressure test of the fuel lines failed in a grand fashion:

10 What's the most common cause of death in your county?, CNN, 12/15/2016

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/13/health/cause-of-death-by-county/>

Deaths due to heart problems tend to be highest in counties along the southern half of the Mississippi River. Violent deaths tend to be common in Western counties, and deaths from mental and substance abuse disorders tend to be more common in Kentucky and West Virginia counties than others.

11 EPA Raises Questions About Dripping Springs Wastewater, Austin Chron, 12/16/2016

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2016-12-16/epa-raises-questions-about-dripping-springs-wastewater/>

Onion Creek may yet dodge the bullet – more precisely, the treated wastewater discharge requested by the city of Dripping Springs as an alternative to the current practice of spraying the effluent on land, where it is less likely to pollute nearby creeks. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has written to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (which is considering the draft permit), requesting more information and suggesting that the TCEQ's water quality standards are inadequate to protect the creek. ("You Don't Miss Your Water ... 'Til It Turns Green," Nov. 7)

12 Lawmakers: Do more to protect rural America's tap water, USA Today, 12/15/2016

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/12/15/lawmakers-do-more-protect-rural-americas-tap-water/95435272/>

Federal and state governments must do more to protect the health of rural Americans in communities where drinking water may be contaminated by lead or not even tested for the brain-damaging toxin, lawmakers and environmental advocates said in response to a USA TODAY Network investigation this week.

